

That fabulous feel
for fabulous fur, 1D



Swimming
results, 1C

Kids learn to beat
speech problems, 3A

Farmington Observer

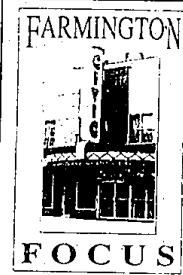
Volume 102 Number 36

Monday, February 4, 1991

Farmington, Michigan

44 Pages

Fifty Cents



Census helps Hills, hurts Farmington

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff writer

Unfortunately for Farmington — but fortunately for Farmington Hills — population and state money go hand-in-hand.

"We have some hard choices to make. Do we cut services or go to taxpayers and ask for taxes?" Farmington City Manager Robert Deadman said, guessing about the future.

Farmington now has a population of 10,132. That's down 8 percent from 1980 when the population was 11,022, according to 1990 U.S. Census Bureau counts.

Farmington Hills, on the other hand, has 74,652 residents, a 28.5 percent jump since the

1980 count of 58,056.

The census figures translate into the amount of dollars — a portion of state income, sales and road taxes — each community is expected to receive from the state.

That means that Farmington is in line to lose about \$82,000 annually and \$1 million in the next decade because of its smaller population. Farmington Hills expects to increase its state shared revenues by about an estimated \$200,000.

AS THE RESULT of a mid-decade census, Farmington Hills received an additional \$600,000 annually in state shared revenues to city coffers. The mid-decade count showed the

city's population at 68,020. The additional state money was used for capital improvements, such as a new fire station on Nine Mile.

Compared to the 1990 preliminary counts released in August, both cities picked up additional population. Farmington's preliminary population was at 10,092. Farmington Hills was at 74,179.

With its population counts, Farmington Hills is now the 13th largest city in the state. Besides the increased demand on city services such as parks and recreation services, the city has suffered traffic congestion and increased accidents because of the increased population, Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick said.

Farmington will be faced with trying to finance the services its population requires. While there may be less rubbish to pick up from a smaller population, the city must continue to pay for rubbish collection and taking it to a landfill.

The same goes for paying the electricity bills for street lights. Population size doesn't affect those bills, Deadman said.

"In a local community, the \$1 you pay in tax provides \$1 worth of services. The money we collect (from local taxes) goes for local services," he added.

Please turn to Page 2

SO WHAT'S HOP-N-ING at the Farmington Community School? Why it's an Easter Seals fund-raiser Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 5-6.

The preschool students at the school will collect pledges from friends and relatives and then participate in a three-minute "HOP-N-ING" at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Funds collected will benefit the Easter Seals program.

Prior to the HOP-N-ING, students will attend an educational program about disabilities presented by an Easter Seals representative.

The 1991 HOP-N-ING is being held in memory of former Farmington Community School teacher Cherie DeRose, a strong supporter of the event who died earlier this school year. Last year, Farmington Community School led all Oakland County schools in raising money for the Easter Seals.

Staff chairwoman for this year's event is Leian Dutton. Mary Stahl serves as parent chairwoman.

Anyone interested in sponsoring children for this event should contact program coordinator Phyllis Howard at 489-3373.

THE AMERICAN Red Cross will be looking for a few good drops for blood drives in the near future.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be at North Farmington High School, 32960 W. 13 Mile Road, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 13. Those wishing to donate blood should call William Brinker at 489-3537.

Two days later, on Friday, Feb. 15, the bloodletting will take place from 2-8 p.m. at the St. Francis Knights of Columbus Hall, 21900 Middlebelt Road, Farmington Hills. Call Earl Gilbert at 477-9110 for an appointment.

Another blood drive will be Wednesday, Feb. 27, from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills. Maureen Daugh is taking appointments at 553-0303.

ATTENTION business people who want to sell to the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and the Farmington Public Schools.

Purchasing officers from the cities and school district will hold a program on how to bid on contracts at 8 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, at the Radisson Suite Hotel, 37320 Grand Haven, behind Hill Cook Buick.

The \$5 fee includes a continental breakfast. Reservations should be made by Feb. 18. Call the sponsoring Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce at 474-3440.

SPEAKING of the local Chamber of Commerce, its next luncheon will be at noon Thursday, Feb. 28, at the Hotel Baronette, 27790 Novi Road, at the north end of the Twelve Oaks Mall.

Donald F. Wall, president of the Michigan League of Savings Institutions, will speak on problems in the savings and loan industry. Cost is \$15 for chamber members and \$18 for non-members. Call the chamber at 474-3440 for more information or to register.



Flanders student Sarah Davies (seated at desk) asks her mother, Lynne, a volunteer parent, for more military peanut butter. Army food was on the menu for the third graders in Pam Ellis' class.

Photo by SHARON LEMELUX/staff photographer



Jared Lhamon, American flag in hand, tries Saudi "troop" food at Flanders Elementary Thursday.

Gulf goodies

Flanders kids chow down on Army food

By Tom Baor
Staff writer

The third-graders at Farmington's Flanders Elementary School have a friend in Saudi Arabia and she's given them a taste of life there.

Spec. 4 Bridget Gatewood, on duty with the U.S. Army in the Persian Gulf, has been a pen pal to teacher Pam Ellis' students at Flanders. And the Maryland soldier sends them more than just letters.

Last month, a big box arrived from Gatewood. It was crammed with goodies from the Gulf, including those infamous MREs (official-



ly "meals ready to eat" — or, in soldiers' parlance, "meals refused by everyone."

Thursday, the Flanders third graders chowed down on Army chow.

They said "yum-yum" to the tuna and noodles, beef stew and

spaghetti consumed cold right out of the olive drab paper sacks. There were also bread ("shell stable"), crackers with cheese and peanut butter, cherry nut cake and fruit juice with Arabic writing on the container.

THE "MEALS refused by everyone" went over big in Room 4 of Flanders Elementary School.

"I'm going to Saudi Arabia" for the food," said student Kendal Fabian, who like most of her classmates was wearing a yellow T-shirt marked Riyadh. The shirts also were a gift from Spec. 4 Gate-

Please turn to Page 4

Botsford in area burner project

Hospitals plan own incinerator

By Joanne Maliszewski
Staff writer

Most people probably don't notice it. But an average of 700 pounds of medical waste is burned weekly at 1,800 degrees in Botsford General Hospital's 20-year-old incinerator.

"I haven't noticed any problems. I have never smelled anything coming from over there," said Maxine Kuzjeja, who lives not far from the hospital on Grand River.

In some parts of Michigan, homeowners who live within reach of hospitals have planned about smoke and odors from incinerators. But Kuzjeja, the treasurer and former president of the Olde Town Homeowners Association, said she's unaware of any homeowners' complaints about the hospital's incinerator.

That wouldn't surprise Botsford officials who also said they haven't had complaints about the incinerator that burns the facility's medical waste such as needles, scalpel blades, bandages and body parts.

But Botsford's incinerator is expected to close one day when a new regional facility opens, ideally by 1993 somewhere in southeast Michigan. Botsford has joined forces with 29 other area hospitals to own and operate their own regional incinerator. The hospital put \$25,000 in "seed money" toward the project.

WE WANT to solve our own problems in a way that works best for us, doing it better, doing it more cost-effectively. We don't want to wait and do something when someone forces us," said Bill Scheuber, Botsford's administrator of professional and support services.

Increasing costs, environmental concerns and tougher regulations — particularly those in the new 1990 Michigan Medical Waste Regulation Act — prompted the Michigan Hos-

Please turn to Page 4

what's inside

- Building scene . . . 1F
- Classifieds . . . Sec. C, E, F
- Index . . . BE
- Auto . . . Sec. C, F
- Real estate . . . Sec. E
- Employment . . . Sec. E, F
- Creative living . . . 1E
- Crossword puzzle . . . 3E
- Entertainment . . . 3D
- On the agenda . . . 3C
- Police, fire calls . . . 3A
- Sports . . . Sec. C
- Street Scene . . . Sec. D
- Taste . . . Sec. B

Look for the
Farmington Hills
Suburban
Cable Weekly



By Casey Hens
Staff writer

A larger-than-usual turnout is expected tomorrow, as voters in the Farmington school district go to the polls to decide on two proposals to increase operating millage in the district.

School officials say they expect a big turnout because of publicity. Both pro and con generated throughout this two-month millage campaign.

"Obviously, we'll have a bigger turnout than we've had past elections," said director of business support services for Farmington Public Schools, Helms Holtrock, who coordinates elections for the district. As of

midweek, the district had sent out in excess of 650 absentee ballot applications, and "I don't think we're done yet," Holtrock said.

Absentee ballot applications are sometimes used as indicators of overall voter turnout.

During the district's last special election in January of 1989, in which a bond issue was approved to build Hillsdale Elementary, 435 absentee ballots were cast. A total of 4,745 or 8.6 percent of active registered voters, turned out in that election. The last special election held in the district

POLLS WILL be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters will cast ballots at special school precincts — not the

precincts at which they vote during general and city elections. Absentee voters can cast ballots today until 4:30 p.m. at the Lewis Schulman Adams Executive Center, 32500 Shawanago in Farmington.

The ballot propositions — each would be for 10 years beginning July 1, 1991 — ask voters to

• Proposition 1 — approve a new tax of 2.7 mills, about \$6.75 million, for operating expenses in the district. The money is to make up for \$5.8 million recaptured by the state, projected student increases and the cost associated with that, jumps in a number of expenses including insurance, and enough to maintain a 5

Please turn to Page 2